

Commissioners,

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of why there used to exist -- and still should exist -- a "fairness doctrine."

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Using those airwaves to show one-sided and unsubstantiated claims on a controversial issue is clearly not in the public interest.

Furthermore, Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Media consolidation allows these sorts of one-sided attacks to be aired without an fair response. As this arrogant and, indeed, dangerous display by Sinclair demonstrates, the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.